



# The law and your motorcycle



## SAFETY HELMETS

Helmets **MUST** be worn by all operators and passengers. Helmets conforming to the requirements of the Snell Memorial Foundation . . . British Standards Institute . . . or CSA approved helmets are permitted.

All helmets must bear the appropriate monogram.

## OPERATOR'S LICENCE

You must **NOT** operate a motorcycle on a highway unless you hold . . . a driver's licence bearing an endorsement authorizing the operation of a motorcycle.

If your driver's examination is taken on a motorcycle, your licence is restricted to the operation of a motorcycle.

If your driver's examination is taken in some motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, it is restricted to the operation of a motor vehicle other than a motorcycle.

To permit the operation of both motorcycles and other motor vehicles, you must pass driver examinations using both types of vehicles.

When you make an appointment for a driver examination on a motorcycle, you receive an "Appointment and Licence for Driver's Examination" which allows you to drive the motorcycle, on the day of your examination, to the examination centre and while on the driver's test.

## EQUIPMENT

You must not drive your motorcycle on a highway or let anyone else drive it if it is in such a dangerous or unsafe condition as to endanger the driver or others.

**The law requires you to have on your motorcycle, and in good working order:**

**LIGHTS:** a white light on the front, a red light on the rear and a white light to illuminate the registration plate.

**BRAKES:** at least two braking systems each with a separate means of application with one effective on the front wheel and one effective on the rear wheel.

**MUDGUARDS or FENDERS:** which will reduce, effectively, the wheel spray or splash of water from the roadway to the rear.

**MUFFLER:** in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise and excessive smoke. It is illegal to use a muffler cut-out, straight exhaust, gutted muffler, hollywood muffler, by-pass or similar device.

**HORN:** must be used whenever it is reasonably necessary to do so. A motorcycle must not have a siren horn or any device producing a sound which could be confused with a siren.

**HANDLEBARS:** must not be more than 15 inches in height above the uppermost portion of the seat provided for the operator when the seat is depressed by the weight of the operator.

## PASSENGERS

You must **NOT** carry a passenger on your motorcycle unless the passenger is in a side car designed to carry a passenger **OR** is sitting astride on a seat securely fastened behind the operator's seat and provided with foot rests for the passenger.

You'll be safer on your motorcycle if you follow these suggestions.



**Make sure your motorcycle is in good repair!**

Control, performance and reliability are affected by good maintenance. The maker's instruction book is a good guide for routine maintenance and adjustments and correct fuel mixture.

**Make sure you're properly dressed!**

**ALWAYS** wear your safety helmet and protect your eyes with safety glasses.

**Make sure you know the rules of the road!**

These are contained in the Driver's Handbook, available from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. You must be familiar with all of them.



MINISTRY OF  
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS  
ONTARIO

Hon. Gordon Carton, Q.C., Minister



Whether you have just graduated from a bicycle

Or you are a motorist familiar with driving a car



You need new driving skills and habits to handle a motorcycle safely.



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## What is a motorcycle?

Whatever you call your two-wheeler . . . a motorcycle . . . a mini-bike . . . a scooter . . . or a motorized bicycle . . . legally it's a motorcycle if it is self-propelled, has a seat for a driver and is designed to travel on not more than three wheels. A motorcycle is a motor vehicle under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act.

It must be registered and you must have a licence to drive it.

Because your motorcycle has more power than a bicycle and fewer wheels than a car, it takes special skills to operate it safely.

You must know its capabilities and its limitations.



**YOU HAVE TO RIDE, as well as drive, IT!**

It is designed to steer in the direction in which it is leaning, with steering tending to centre as the machine is restored to an upright position. Body lean helps in turning it.

**IT CAN SLIDE OUT FROM UNDER YOU!**

Brake **before** you enter a curve, while the machine is still upright. Braking while the machine is banked over may cause it to slide out from under you.



**SMOOTH BRAKING NEEDS A COMBINATION OF FRONT AND REAR BRAKES!**

Too much rear braking may cause rear wheel to skip and fishtail. Use of front wheel brakes with moisture, ice, snow or any loose material on the roadway can cause loss of steering control.



**FOLLOW CARS AT A GREATER DISTANCE THAN YOU WOULD WHEN DRIVING ONE!...**

to give yourself a better angle of vision. **AND REMEMBER...** driving on the yellow line, between two lanes of traffic, is particularly dangerous.

**HEAD-ON FOR CROSSING OBSTACLES!**

If you have to ride over an obstacle, reduce speed and approach it at right angles . . . not obliquely.

**AND WATCH OUT FOR OIL SLICK, BUMPS AND LOOSE GRAVEL!**



**HAND SIGNALS TOO!**

Because of the close positioning of most directional lights installed on motorcycles, the use of hand signals is recommended.



**LANE-WEAVING IS OUT!**

You need an extra margin of safety to pass. Make sure the way ahead is clear and that you have enough power and time.

**A SPECIAL WORD OF WARNING!...** Remember, you're one of the smallest units on the road and it's not that easy for a motorist to see you. Even when he does see you, it is a common error to misjudge the distance of a smaller object. It's up to you to drive defensively!